

PORTABLE FLUORESCENT DROP-LIGHTRelated Applications

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[0001] This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/316,219, filed ~~now U.S. Pat. No. 6,727,664~~ December 10, 2002, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/644,765, filed August 23, 2000, ~~now U.S. Pat. No. 6,534,926~~ which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/196,767 entitled Portable Fluorescent Drop-Light filed April 12, 2000 which are hereby incorporated in their entirety herein..

Background of the InventionField of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to the field of electrical devices and in particular to a portable fluorescent drop-light including multiple lamps connected in parallel with switches to allow the individual lamps to be independently turned on or off and a ballast circuit comprising solid-state devices to drive and protect the multiple lamps with or without integral starters.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] Circumstances often arise around the home and in shops in which a person wishes to illuminate an area that is not adequately illuminated by the installed light fixtures. Flashlights are sometimes used in these circumstances, however as they are powered by batteries, they typically do not offer the illuminating power of hardwired lights. In addition the batteries are of limited lifespan and the light from a flashlight is typically focussed whereas the desire is often for more diffused illumination.

[0004] Drop-lights are powered by line supply (120 VAC, 60 Hz) but are portable, hand-held assemblies to thereby allow the user to provide light where the installed light fixtures do not provide coverage. Drop-lights are powered from wall receptacles via a power cord and are not subject to the power and life span limitations of batteries. Drop-lights